

To Whom It May Concern,

I am an amateur radio enthusiast who has recently decided to upgrade my license to the General License. Because of this I realized that I have to learn the required Morse code as part of my testing requirements for the license upgrade.

In learning more about Morse code I have realized how much it is needed in the Amateur radio world. If we drop the Morse code requirement, many Technician license holders may not even consider Morse code and, inevitably, Morse code will become a dying language. We also have to look at Morse code as a means of connection to other countries around the world. If the Morse code test requirement is dropped then we are virtually saying that one does not need to know the international common language that many rely on in some countries as the ONLY means of communication on amateur radio. Hypothetically speaking, this could also mean a downturn in international goodwill.

What about the sheer practicality of Morse code? For an amateur operator to make contacts around the world, he or she only needs as much as 5 watts and a decent antenna to do this. It is efficient and a reliable means of communication when phone isn't. Unfortunately, many possible new General license amateur operators that do not have the knowledge of Morse code may find themselves very disappointed that they cannot make very good phone contacts in the near future during the sun-cycle low, when band conditions are less conducive for phone. Yet had they learned Morse code, they could simply use that skill and enjoy making CW contacts around the world that they otherwise could not have done on phone.

I am going to learn Morse code and upgrade my license while I still have to take the Morse code test. I am a firm supporter of Morse code and hope that the decisions of the FCC do not ultimately cause the slow and painful demise of CW.

Sincerely,
Jeremy Williams